

REMARKS

This paper provides an amendment accompanying a request for continued examination. This paper follows a final Office action rejecting all the claims of the application, i.e. claims 1-38. With this paper, claims 1, 14, 18, 27 and 28 are amended; support for the amendment can be found in Figure 23 and the corresponding text in the specification on page 21, lines 11 through page 22, line 17. New means-plus-function claim 39 has been added. No new matter has been introduced by way of amendment.

The amendment provided by this paper is believed to distinguish the claimed invention over the cited prior art, *Muthuswamy et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,853,368, hereafter referred to as *Muthuswamy*). As amended, the hinting capabilities of the claimed invention are implemented using a non-literal character string match logic process for example a tree/branch logic process (see Fig. 23 and page 21, line 11 – page 22, line 17), whereas in *Muthuswamy*, the hinting capabilities of the invention are implemented by a literal string search and match system, as evidenced at col. 6, lines 12-31:

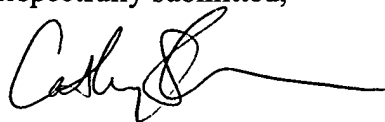
“In order to enter a command the user uses the function keys 108 and the side mounted keys 110 to navigate to a particular submenu of the hierarchical menu and select lower level submenus or options. In the course of entering certain types of commands, it is sometimes also necessary to use the alphanumeric keys 106 to enter data such as for example a telephone number to be stored. Navigating such a hierarchical menu to enter a command entails pressing a sequence of keys. At any given point within the sequence prior to completion of the sequence, at least one, and more usually one of a limited set of keys can be pressed in order to continue *entering a syntactically correct command*. At each juncture within the sequence, *pressing a particular key that is part of the limited set of possible (syntactically correct) next keys, specifies more precisely a command that is being entered*. This method 400 assists a user who does not necessarily know which keys among all the keys of the wireless device 100 are valid keys to press at different junctures in the *process of entering a sequences of keys required to enter syntactically correct commands*.”

In essence, in the literal string search and match system of *Muthuswamy*, for example, if the user is searching for a term that begins with the letter “L”, the device displays any term from its memory beginning with the letter “L”. The user then inputs the next letter, such as “E”, and then all terms from the memory beginning with “LE” are displayed and the others are eliminated from consideration. This process continues until the user finds the desired term on the display if the term has been previously stored in the memory which is being search. In contrast, in the claimed invention, the user enters a first operational functionality term, for example “call”, and the device uses a tree/branch logic process to create a list of possible sub-operational

functionalities from memory such as “dial”, “hold”, “end”, “forward”, etc. The claimed invention is clearly distinguishable over the prior art when considering the notably different processes (literal string search and match vs. tree/branch logic) used to generate hinting capabilities in a device.

Accordingly, applicant requests that all rejections of record be withdrawn. Passage to issue is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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